

M'CORMICK LOVE RIFT AND WALSKA DIVORCE ECHO STILLMAN CASE

FATE'S CAPRICES AFFECT FAMILY OF ROCKEFELLER

Three Foremost Heart Suits Seem Destined to Link Kin of John D.

HARVESTER KING LATEST
Daughter of World's Richest Man Now Living Apart From Husband.

NEW YORK, Oct. 8.—On the heels of the now famous James A. Stillman divorce suit, in which Mr. Stillman's sisters, Mrs. Percy A. Rockefeller, niece-in-law of John D. Rockefeller, was a witness for the banker, society has been startled by two new cases in which figure kinfolk of the aged Oil King.

First and most important of these two cases is the reported estrangement and possible divorce suit that may sever the ties between Harold F. McCormick, president of the International Harvester Company, and his wife, who is a daughter of John D. Rockefeller and consequently is a cousin by marriage of Mrs. Percy A. Rockefeller, Stillman's sister.

Second is the break between Alexander Smith Cochran, who before his marriage was known as "America's richest bachelor," and his wife, the former Mme. Ganna Walska, the exotically beautiful Polish opera singer, in whose career—and here is the Rockefeller link in the case—Harold F. McCormick, Rockefeller's son-in-law, had a guiding hand.

Romance Amid Ruins.

And to add to the complexities of the triple social upheavals, it is said that young Harold McCormick, Rockefeller's grandson, is engaged to be married to Mr. and Mrs. James A. Stillman's daughter, Anne, remotely related to Rockefeller by the marriage of her aunt to Percy A. Rockefeller, the Oil King's nephew.

Mary Garden, manager of the Chicago Opera Company, who is a protegee of McCormick, is said to have definitely followed in the footsteps of Mme. Ganna Walska Cochran in deciding to give up singing in America. This decision followed a meeting in Paris between Mrs. McCormick, then en route for home, and the diva. It is said the interview was a stormy one, following Mrs. McCormick's statement that she was returning to Chicago especially to take over the management of the Chicago Opera Company personally.

Miss Garden intimated that she would resign at the end of the year and become purely an European diva if compelled to sing in an opera company of which she had been chief. Miss Garden will leave Paris for New York on October 15 and expects to arrive in Chicago on October 23.

Plans New Opera House.

According to report in opera circles in Paris Mrs. McCormick plans to build a magnificent new opera house in Chicago in which she will inaugurate year-around opera.

Miss Garden's official successor as director of opera will probably be George M. Spangler, who is now business manager, but it is certain the strings of the management will in reality be in the hands of Mrs. McCormick.

Mrs. McCormick's plans were undoubtedly known to Mme. Walska when the latter announced a month ago that she would never again sing in America.

Eight and a half years ago Mrs. McCormick sailed for Europe to take up the study of psychoanalysis in Zurich, Switzerland. A few days ago she returned aboard the George Washington, distraught and weeping, in the company of a buxom German maid, an elderly companion and Dr. Joseph Hartmann, of Zurich, and his companion, Edwin Krenn, a slender, handsome young man, who seemed to observers aboard the vessel to be the only person who could comfort Mrs. McCormick.

Psychic Philosophy.

She has repeatedly stated that she does not contemplate suing for divorce and gave out a statement in Chicago, saying: "People simply don't understand. They have in mind that there has been long periods of separation between my husband and me during the last eight years; that he did not return from Europe with me, and possibly some other things which to them appear in a different light than I look upon them. I know they are not satisfied now, but that doesn't change the facts any."

"I will give my message to the world when the time is right. All I can say now is that synthetic psy-

Fate of Chicago Opera Hinges on Oddly Linked McCormick and Cochran Tangles

Mme. Ganna Walska, protegee of Harold F. McCormick, in two poses which reveal her exquisite beauty. Her husband, Alexander Smith Cochran, who, though abroad, has seized through a replevin suit, the diva's \$25,000 furniture here, is shown in inset smoking his favorite brand of cigarettes and wearing a stylish English hat.



Harold F. McCormick, president of the International Harvester Company, in a resplendent silk Chinese costume worn at a bal masque. He has spent fortunes on the Chicago Opera Company, but it is hinted he may withdraw his support.

chology will solve all problems of business and domestic life. It is founded on infinite understanding—a consciousness of the subconsciousness. All perplexities and worries of existence are dispelled by it.

"Definite plans for the psychology school in Chicago will be announced in the near future."

Mrs. McCormick emphatically denied that she and McCormick are separated.

But against this attitude on her part predictions are made that McCormick does intend to sue and it is cited that he has been in consultation with an attorney who is not a member of the International Harvester Company's legal staff. He is occupying the family palace at Lake Forest.

With Mrs. McCormick is her daughter Muriel. If a suit is instituted, the question of her custody may become a big feature of the case. Harold, Jr., is with his father. The third child, Matilda, is abroad. It is not known on which side she

will take if a divorce suit is instituted.

McCormick also returned from Europe—but on a separate steamer. Arrived in New York, the McCormicks left for Chicago on separate trains and now occupy separate homes in the Windy City.

The break between Mme. Walska and Cochran was definitely established on Wednesday, September 28, when \$25,000 worth of furnishings were seized in a replevin suit brought by Cochran from the diva's residence at 101 East Ninety-fourth street.

Cochran, who is now traveling through England and Scotland, swore to an affidavit—presumably in Paris, where he had a conference with his counsel, Samuel Untermyer—that the furniture in question had been "possessed wrongfully" by his wife and withheld by her when his agents demanded that it be turned over to them.

The replevin suit was the first legal step taken by either Mme.

Mrs. McCormick, a psychoanalysis student, intends to establish a psychic school in Chicago. It is said she and Mary Garden quarreled in Paris when Mrs. McCormick said she would personally manage the Chicago Opera Company.

Walska or Cochran that openly indicated that their sudden marriage in Paris in September, 1920, was a failure. It was said that the contract between McCormick and the Chicago company, by which he underwrote all losses, will expire in March, 1922. It is also known that the elevation of Mme. Walska to the position of prima donna was one of the ambitions of his life, for she was his "discovery" in the opera field and he never lost faith in her.

How Whims of Walska and Mary Garden Cost McCormick a Fortune

Cast in "Zaza" Role, Walska Quit in Rage When Asked to Sing Louder—Mary Garden Canceled Bonci Engagement and Humiliated Rosa Raisa.

By LOUIS W. FEHR.

NEW YORK, Oct. 8.—Here are two anecdotes of a woman's whim. Each sheds light on the disastrous season of the Chicago opera and its bearing on the McCormick and Cochran domestic tangles. Both come from an insider high in the organization. Each is expected to figure in the trial of Ben H. Atwell's \$6,000 suit against the Opera Association.

The White Kitten.

Ganna Walska, the new prima donna, has come to Chicago. A white kitten, "Doe" is her mascot.

Madame with her entourage takes a suite at The Blackstone, an aristocratic hotel. Her party includes a New York singing teacher, paid \$1,000 a week, dramatic coaches, language tutors, modistes, milliners, maids and secretaries.

Madame's husband is restless. He stops at another hotel. He stops at a club. He bounces about like a rubber ball.

The Blackstone has a menagerie in the basement. Animals are not allowed in the rooms. It is some

time before the management learns of Madame's white kitten. The manager calls on her and says:

"Your kitten must go below stairs. With all due respect to Madame's position as an artist, President Harding would not be allowed to keep a pet in his rooms."

Madame, magnificent in her rage, thrusts the manager from her apartment. She goes to the telephone. She summons—not her husband—but Harold F. McCormick.

McCormick drops his business and motors to the Blackstone. He buttons the manager in the lobby. He speaks crisp sentences. The manager shrugs his shoulders.

The Empty Ticket Rack.

Listen to madame a few days later, with a glint in her large, cold blue eyes:

"My kitten stayed in the apartment, Mr. McCormick controls many banks and trust companies. It was either my kitten stayed or the Blackstone closed its doors." The scene shifts to New York. Mme. Walska has departed in wrath

World's Oldest Man, 146, Weds 4th Wife of 25

PARIS, Oct. 8.

ZARO, of Constantinople, 146, the earth's oldest man, has taken a beautiful Turkish girl, twenty-five, as his fourth wife.

Zaro, nicknamed "King of Life," worked ninety years as a street porter, quitting at 110, and at 111 he became porter in a munitions factory, and still holds the job.

Because his son, ninety-eight, will not work, but "sticks around the house," Zaro often loses his temper. He has been offered a fabulous sum to tour America, and says he may—after his honeymoon.

from Chicago. She has crossed the ocean to Europe. Her flight has brought the fall of Herbert M. Johnson, executive director of the Chicago Opera.

Mary Garden, who succeeded Johnson as head of the organization, enters the box office of the Manhattan Opera House. She looks coldly at an empty rack, which shows a complete sell out for the Washington Birthday extra matinee, five days off. It means \$14,000 in the box office.

"What?" she cries. "Bonci to have a triumph—that moth-eaten Wop?"

Wrapping her cloak around her, she swishes out of the office. A half hour later a note arrives signed "Garden."

"Refund the money for the Bonci matinee. Announce a matinee for Raisa."

There are two days to refund the money. Three days, including Sunday, to sell for the Rosa Raisa matinee.

The feminine czar inquires at the box office:

"Four thousand dollars."

"How many did Raisa sell?" The director laughs. She has injured two of her pet aversions. She has deprived Bonci of a triumph. She has humiliated Raisa.

Besides the loss of \$10,500 on the house, the company has had to pay two casts.

Bonci, whose contract called for \$41,000 of performances during the New York engagement, sang once.

The Mysterious Walska.

The public generally believes that rivalry between Mme. Walska and Garden led to the humiliation of the one and the triumph of the other. There is no foundation for such a belief, as is herewith disclosed. Each, however, in her own way, contributed to the failure of the Chicago opera's last season.

What follows is an arresting narrative of events little known outside of high operatic circles.

Mme. Walska arrived in New York in 1915. Mystery shrouded her past. A string of pearls, worth five figures, was her principal possession.

After living from hand to mouth for some months, she obtained an engagement to appear in a light operetta on the Century Theater Roof.

During this engagement she attracted the attention of an international banker, known as a patron of the arts. Her operetta failed and she began to be seen in musical circles. Something happened. Her marriage to Dr. Joseph Fraenkel shortly surprised those on the fringe of the operatic group.

Then came her unfortunate appearance in Havana, which cost her \$6,000 to settle with her manager. Later she gave \$1,300 to appear in three concerts of a series given at a well-known hotel. A few months after her marriage Dr. Fraenkel

died. Within three months after Dr. Fraenkel's death the newspapers carried the story that she had broken her engagement to Lowell M. Palmer, a Brooklynite, lest it interfere with her career as a singer. This story established her as a personage.

A few months later she met Harold F. McCormick, son-in-law of John D. Rockefeller, head of the International Harvester Company and "angel" of the Chicago Opera. She occupied a villa at High Mount in the Catskills that summer. McCormick visited the Grand Hotel at High Mount and was seen in her company.

The rumor began to spread that she would shortly appear as a guest artist of the Chicago Opera Company. She set sail for Europe to prepare herself for the role of "Zaza."

The report spread consternation among the Chicago Opera organization. The guarantee of the group headed by Mr. McCormick expired in the spring of 1921. The company had lost \$10,000,000 in the guarantee period.

The Walska announcement threw cold chills into the Johnson headquarters. There was a sigh of relief when the cables brought the news of her marriage to Alexander Smith Cochran, of Brooklyn, America's richest bachelor.

She Sang Too Low.

But the rejoicing was premature. Walska, as told above, appeared at Chicago with her entourage. Johnson objected. Finally McCormick said:

"You are my man. I created you. You came here as a mere book-keeper. Because of my favor you occupy a position of international prominence. I am not asking you to take responsibility for my request. I will go before my board of directors and assume that. All I ask of you is that you do everything to give this woman a fair show."

Johnson on that basis, against his better judgment, acquiesced. He sent for Ben H. Atwell, publicity man. He said:

"Mr. McCormick will see that the boxes and the orchestra are filled with society for Mme. Walska's debut. We must fill the rest of the house."

Then came the orchestra rehearsals on the stage of the great auditorium, Gino Marinuzzi, tall and lean, head conductor of the Chicago Opera, held the baton. Union musicians receiving nearly \$1,000 for the rehearsal followed him. He repeatedly called on Mme. Walska to raise her voice. Suave, he created no scene when she balked. Machiavellian, he did not appear at the next rehearsal.

Cimini, another conductor conducted the next expensive rehearsal. Short, bullet-headed, thick-chested, he was more direct than Marinuzzi. He expostulated that he could not hear Mme. Walska from his place in the orchestra. Pointedly he asked her how she expected to fill the vast auditorium. She cried that the orchestra drowned her voice. He stopped the musicians and called on her to sing without it.

Calls Conductor "Fig."

She looked into the deep black vaults of the balconies and then cried:

"You pig," she cried. "Your conspiracy to drive me from the opera has succeeded. I am going, but I will drag you with me. I will tear the roof from your opera."

Forty minutes later she was on a train for New York. Her trunk had been packed. Cochran followed on the next train. Walska had already engaged passage for Paris on the next boat and sailed.

McCormick summoned his board of directors together. They voted to demand the resignations of Johnson and Marinuzzi. Cimini received notice that his contract would not be renewed.

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